

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 IO-10 /073 W

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R 311446Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1895

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CS

SUBJECT: FIGUERES CLARIFIES

REF: SAN JOSE 4614

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FIGUERES DENIES HE IS CRITICIZING THE ODUBER GOVERNMENT IN HIS CALL FOR POLITICAL REFORM. PRESSURE ON THE ASSEMBLY, THE PLN, AND THE GOVERNMENT TO SEE THINGS DON PEPE'S WAY BEGINS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ANOTHER TELEVISION INTERVIEW AIRED OCTOBER 30, EX-PRESIDENT JOSE FIGUERES DENIED THAT HE IS CRITICIZING THE ODUBER GOVERNMENT WHEN HE PROPOSES FAR-REACHING POLITICAL CHANGES, AND OPINED THAT THE DECISION ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM TO PERMIT RE-ELECTION OF EX-PRESIDENTS "DEPENDS ON THE SENSE OF HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ASSEMBLY."

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3. FIGUERES ALSO REACTED TO THE OCTBER 21, ALL-DAY

CABINET MEETING WHICH REVIEWED GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE TO DATE AND EXPRESSED GOCR DISAGREEMENT WITH FIGUERES' PROPOSAL FOR A ONE-YEAR PERIOD OF RULE BY EXECUTIVE DECREE. DON PEPE SLIPPED IN THE KNIFE THUS: "IT IS SATISFACTORY THAT OUR CABINET CONCERN ITSELF AS RAPIDLY AS IT DID WITH ACADEMIC MATTERS AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. THIS MEANS THAT THEY ARE STUDIOUS MEN WITHOUT POLITICAL PASSION...MY DESIRE IS NOT ONLY TO HEAR OPINIONS ON WHETHER OR NOT TO TRANSFORM RAPIDLY COSTA RICA'S CONSTITUTIONAL APPARATUS, BUT HOW..."

4. IN DENYING THAT HE WAS SINGLING OUT THE ODUBER GOVERNMENT FOR CRITICISM, FIGUERES STATED: "MORE THAN ANYTHING IT IS CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENTS IN WHICH I HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT." FIGUERES REITERATED THAT IN A TENSE WORLD SITUATION IN WHICH THE COUNTRY NEEDS GREAT SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC REFORMS, HE FEELS THAT THEY SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ALL TOGETHER--SUCH AS IN THE PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

5. COMMENT: FIGUERES IS TURNING THE SCREWS ON THE PLN DEPUTIES, ON THE ODUBER CABINET, AND ON THE ODUBER GOVERNMENT. THE QUESTION HE IS POSING IS ARE YOU WITH DON PEPE AND REAL CHANGE, OR ARE YOU WITH THE STATUS QUO. THE INITIAL ODUBER GOVERNMENT RESPONSE--AGREEING WITH DON PEPE'S ANALYSIS BUT REJECTING A DRASTIC GOVERNMENTAL OVERHAUL TO ACHIEVE NEEDED REFORMS--MAY NOT BE ENOUGH. ALL THIS OCCURS ON THE EVE OF YET ANOTHER ODUBER TRIP ABROAD--TO THE MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS.
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